

Kern/Tulare

GWSS Update



A project of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Task Force of Kern and Tulare Counties. Participants: Agricultural Commissioner Offices of Kern and Tulare Counties, California Department of Food and Agriculture, University of California-Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture (APHIS and ARS Divisions).

Monitoring vineyards for GWSS is paramount

Monitoring is paramount in any insect management program. For GWSS, monitoring should include:

- yellow sticky traps for flying adults
- the use of sticky tape at citrus/grape interfaces to improve the detection of low populations of GWSS. Twenty feet of yellow sticky tape would be equivalent to 20 yellow sticky traps

- visual searches of foliage for adults, nymphs (immature stage) and eggs

These will help determine the need and timing of treatments as well as to evaluate your control program.

Yellow sticky traps. Yellow sticky traps catch adults when they are active or are dispersing to adjacent vineyards and vegetation. Yellow hues are an attractant to GWSS. Double-sided yellow sticky cards (7 x 9 inches) are the standard traps currently used to detect adult GWSS.

A minimum of one trap per 10 acres is recommended. Traps should be placed from the edge to throughout the vineyard beginning at bud break for early detection, with trap monitoring continuing until leaf drop. The GWSS doesn't stop feeding and laying eggs at harvest. Traps should be placed on trellises above the canopy and moved as vine growth and development occurs to prevent traps from becoming obscured by foliage. Placement should take into account surrounding host plants and terrain. Because dusty conditions will reduce trap performance, traps should be replaced every two weeks.

While sticky traps are useful for detection of GWSS infestations, the numbers may or may not correlate closely with the number of eggs and nymphs on leaves, shoots and canes. Therefore, sticky trap counts should be backed up with weekly foliage inspection in the vineyard in areas where GWSS is known to occur or is suspected. Remember, GWSS can complete its life cycle on grape!

Visual searches. Visually searching the outer third of vine growth is another way to monitor for GWSS adults, nymphs and eggs. Visual searches can be combined with other pest monitoring, such as, but not limited to, spider mites, grape leafhopper and variegated leafhopper. Visually inspect the outer third of vine growth on 15 consecutive vines in three areas for each 10 to 40 acres of vineyard. Also, inspect 50 leaves per 15 consecutive vines for egg masses. The time spent should average three to five minutes per acre. Treatment or re-treatment is warranted if any GWSS life stage is discovered in a vineyard.

Some points to consider:

- First, sticky traps may not be completely reliable early in the season for detecting GWSS within the vineyard, thereby potentially allowing it to become established before detection.

- Secondly, traps may catch GWSS flying into vineyards that have been treated with systemic insecticides. In this case, GWSS might not become established. In both cases, visual inspections will verify trap reliability and systemic insecticide effectiveness.

It would be advantageous to train vineyard personnel (pruners, irrigation workers, pickers, etc.) to recognize all stages of GWSS and immediately report the exact location to the person responsible for the management of GWSS.

— *This report was excerpted from a new brochure, "Managing the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter in Vineyards," a guide from the University of California and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The brochure will be available later this month from:*

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- Raymond Hix, University of California-Riverside - (909) 787-2064
- Jennifer Hashim, UC-Cooperative Extension, Kern County - (661) 868-6223

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Web sites:

- www.kernag.com/kpp.htm
- www.co.kern.ca.us/farm/luvisi.htm

PD/GWSS Symposium set for Dec. 15-18

The annual Pierce's Disease Research Symposium will be held Dec. 15-18, 2002, at the Coronado Island Marriott Resort in San Diego.

For more information, visit <http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/pdpcp>.

New Web site for Kern County Ag Department

The Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's office has a new Web site address: <http://www.co.kern.ca.us/kernag>.

2002 Finale

This is the last GWSS Update for 2002. The newsletter will resume its weekly schedule in January 2003.



Kern-Tulare GWSS Update

Merit 75WP progressing with DPR for use on windbreaks

During the past two years, we have made progress in developing management practices that minimize GWSS populations in citrus and grapes. An effective management program has reduced the levels of GWSS to near zero at grape/citrus interfaces.

One challenge that still remains has been windbreaks near citrus and grapes. Unfortunately, windbreaks are not considered agricultural but ornamental, and require a product registered for ornamental use.

The current trend is to register products and formulations as crop-specific, thus making it difficult to select a product registered for a wide range of crops. Thus, Admire®, Provado® and other pesticides are not registered for the ornamental/windbreak application.

Following the treatment program in the General Beale Road Pilot Project in 2001, only three fields had to be retreated in

2002. These fields were next to windbreaks, and data indicates that these windbreaks had low populations of GWSS present.

One product registered for ornamentals is Merit 75WP, whose active ingredient is imidacloprid, the same active ingredient in Admire®. Current registration of Merit 75WP precludes the application of Merit through sprinkler or drip irrigation systems.

One of our main challenges has been to obtain a 24(c) registration to apply Merit through drip or sprinkler system in windbreaks utilizing required backflow prevention devices during application.

Bayer, the registrant, is cooperating in the registration effort. The 24(c) request was received at the Department of Pesticide Regulation Dec. 7, 2002. The request now has to work its way through DPR. We are looking forward to having this tool available at the start of the 2003 season to strengthen the overall GWSS management program.

— Don Luvisi

Citrus harvest running smoothly in Kern County

The citrus harvest within Kern County is running smoothly this year. To date, only five loads have been rejected, compared to 72 loads this time last year.

Several factors have contributed to making this year so successful:

- The citrus industry has quickly adopted new regulations for transporting bulk loads. It has regularly provided 72-hour advance notice of intent to harvest, and has been keeping loads clean through spray programs and mitigating measures when necessary.

- Pilot Project efforts and grower cooperation played a key role in suppressing GWSS populations over the past two years.

- Biologists are currently trapping and surveying citrus orchards, monitoring harvest, inspecting loads, trapping packing-houses, overseeing treatments, checking manifests, and watching for any signs of GWSS in all citrus harvesting activities.

— Kern County Agricultural
Commissioner's Office

“We are looking forward to having Merit available [for use in windbreaks] at the start of the 2003 season to strengthen the overall GWSS management program.”

— Don Luvisi,
Kern-Tulare GWSS
Task Force

Find GWSS program maps online

Maps for the Kern Pilot Project and Areawide Management Program are available at:

<ftp://bigfoot.cdfa.ca.gov/>